

preserve the quality of life for their citizens and still grow in a positive, more sustainable and livable fashion. It is our obligation as federal officials to make sure the federal role is similarly positive, complementary and preserves quality of life.

OVERVIEW—URBAN SPRAWL AND SMART GROWTH STUDY ACT

SUMMARY

Federal actions and projects can significantly impact the ability of States, Tribes and local governments to plan for and manage growth and urban sprawl. The Urban Sprawl and Smart Growth Study Act would help address these impacts in two ways:

(1) Direct the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) to review how well federal agencies are considering the impacts their actions have on urban growth and sprawl; and

(2) Require Federal agencies to give greater weight to the input of state, local and tribal officials in considering these impacts.

BACKGROUND

One mechanism to address the federal role in sprawl is the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This Act requires federal agencies to analyze the social and environmental impacts of major actions and to take timely steps to avoid or minimize these impacts. A September 2000 GAO report, "Community Development: Local Growth Issues—Federal Opportunities and Challenges" identified this mechanism and noted that federal agencies could do a better job of reviewing projects for sprawl impacts.

What the bill does:

Smart Growth Study: The bill would require the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) to review environmental documents of at least 15 federal agencies and examine how well they are considering urban sprawl and growth impacts of their projects.

Public Participation: In conducting this review, CEQ would be required to hold at least 5 public hearings throughout the country to gather public input on the adequacy of the review of growth and sprawl impacts of federal action or projects.

Smart Growth Report: CEQ would be required to issue a report to Congress on its findings and make recommendations on how federal agencies could do better in incorporating potential sprawl impacts in environmental reviews.

Comments on Sprawl: Agencies would be required to include written comments of sprawl impacts of federal actions or projects as part of Federal environmental documents.

State, Local and Tribal Governmental Consultation: In preparing environmental documents, federal agencies would notify affected state, local and tribal governments, who could then request that the agency conduct a more thorough environmental analysis under NEPA if the project would have an effect on sprawl. Federal agencies would be required to give great weight to such requests and document their decisions in writing.

What the bill does NOT do:

Amend or alter NEPA: The bill does not amend or otherwise alter NEPA and the rules and procedures adopted under this law.

Address the Totality of the Federal Role on Sprawl and Growth: The bill does not attempt to address the full range of federal policies and actions that can have effects on growth and sprawl; it focuses on the environmental analyses that are required under NEPA.

Overturn any particular Federal Action or Project: The bill does not overturn past Federal decisions, but would increase the coordination between federal actions and local efforts so that communities can preserve the quality of life for their citizens and still

grow in a positive, more sustainable and livable fashion.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SPECIAL CHILDREN INCORPORATED

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 50th Anniversary of Special Children Incorporated of Belleville, Illinois.

Special Children Incorporated is a not-for-profit organization which began in 1953 as "The Parent Group for Mentally Retarded Children, Incorporated", when a group of parents came together to address their concerns over a lack of appropriate education for children with special needs. After developing and holding classes in local churches and homes, a permanent site was constructed in 1971 at 1306 Wabash Avenue in Belleville. A 10,000 square foot addition was completed in 1993 to meet the expanding needs of the agency. This building was constructed completely from the fundraising efforts of parents and community volunteers.

Special Children, Inc. continues to provide services for individuals in the St. Clair, Monroe, Randolph and Madison county area. The mission of Special Children, Inc., is to provide educational and early intervention services to children developmentally and or physically disabled from birth through 21 years of age and to provide education and support to the parent/guardian in hopes that these children can continue to reside in the most supportive and least restrictive environments.

Mamie O. Stookey School is approved by the Illinois State Board of Education as a Non-Public Facility in the State of Illinois to educate trainable mentally handicapped and severe profound handicapped students. Special Children develops an individual education plan, which provides a comprehensive assessment of the student's health, education, and social needs. An interdisciplinary team trained to provide specialized pediatric treatment is provided, as is a low pupil-teacher ratio. Special Children also provides for an adaptive physical education program including swimming, bowling, and adaptive therapies. Daily progress reports to the family/guardian of each student are given as well as linkage and coordination to other community resources.

The program has eight self-contained classrooms that provide individualized instruction in the area of motor skills, language and communications, socialization; self help skills of daily living, and pre-vocational activities. The program focuses on a developmental curriculum, which include a variety of support services; Physical Therapy, Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy consultation, adaptive physical education, social services, and nursing.

The family has the primary responsibility for the child's early learning environment. What happens in these early years is crucial to the child's success during the school year. Born of this belief and commitment to help parents of young developmentally delayed children do their job more effectively and enjoyably, the

PRIME/CARE program started in 1974. An Individual Family Service Plan (I.F.S.P.) provides a comprehensive assessment of the child and family's health as well as their education and social needs. An interdisciplinary team has also been trained to provide specialized pediatric treatment and case management. Special Children follows an interagency approach to treatment designed to enhance coordination and ease the transition between medical, social, and educational services in the community.

Special Children provides for comprehensive developmental assessment at referral and also schedules assessments by other professionals for coordination and individualized planning. They provide progress review and a program update every three months. All assessed, but not eligible, children are referred to appropriate community resources. Special Children Service teams represent these area disciplines; Special Instruction, Speech and Language Therapy, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Social Work and Service Coordination.

Additional Special Children Services include; PRIME (home based)—Weekly home visits, CARE (toddler Classroom), Parent Support Groups and a Parent Education Group. Special Children Inc. also serves Newborns Through Two Year Olds, primarily infants at risk for developmental disabilities as the result of prenatal, perinatal and neonatal factors; such as: severe respiratory distress, prematurity, seizures and feeding problems. Special Children also treats infants and toddlers with diagnosed medical disorders such as; Rubella, Tuberous Sclerosis, Cerebral Palsy, Microcephaly and Down's syndrome. Infants, Toddlers and Preschoolers with delayed development (25 percent or more) in one or more areas are also treated for analysis in: cognition, expressive language, receptive language, fine motor development, gross motor development and affective/social/emotional development.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 50th Anniversary of Special Children Incorporated and recognize the work that they do in the community to benefit the health, safety and welfare of children.

THE DIETARY SUPPLEMENT INFORMATION ACT AND THE EPHEDRINE ALKALOID CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, today I am re-introducing two bills that address an important public health issue: the safety of dietary supplements. Walk into any neighborhood drug store or discount store and you will find yourself surrounded by a variety of dietary supplements. Their labels tout promises ranging from "safe and easy" weight loss to increased muscle gain to lower cholesterol. However, dietary supplements are not subject to rigorous safety or efficacy standards and face only limited regulatory oversight under federal law.

My bills will protect consumers and increase the flow of information to the public. They will